finish the official work before the close of this day and by postponing, if necessary, such controversial matters as may wait until the next session of the House and dispose of only such matters as they think are urgently called for. If that is feasible, to morrow which was originally fixed for official work could be surrendered for non-official work and Saturday which was already ear-marked for non-official work will certainly remain a non-official day and the rest of the programme will be carried out right through. I have merely thrown this suggestion so that if it is feasible to finish the official work, we may take it for granted that we shall all enjoy a holiday on the 24th, of course, the President including. Now, we shall proceed to the next item on the agenda and see how quick we go on.

DEMANDS FOR SUPPLEMENTARY GRANTS.

DEMAND I—EDUCATION.

MR. C. V. CHANDRASEKHARAN (*Officiating Director of Public Instruction*) Sir, I beg to move for a supplementary grant not exceeding Rs. 38,644 under Demand I—Education. The object of the demand is to provide compensation to the managements of private schools for the loss of fee income which they have sustained as the result of the recent reduction in school fees. The House is, I believe, aware of the circumstances which led up to the Government order reducing fees in English and Vernacular Schools.

At the last Budget Session of the Assembly when the Education Demand was under discussion. Mr. Damodaran Asan moved a token cut to urge the need—the urgent need—for the reduction of fees in schools and colleges by 50 per cent. This motion was supported by member after member on the floor of the House and it was carried by a very large majority. Similar opinion was expressed in the State Council also. So, the Government decided to respect this expression of public opinion of both the Houses and to respond to it as generously as circumstances would permit.

The Dewan took prompt action. Immediately after the close of the Budget Session of both the Houses he summoned the principal officers concerned to a conference at Bhaktivilas and as a result of the conference Government adopted certain proposals. The Director of Public Instruction, on the floor of the House had already given an assurance that he would look sympathetically into the matter of reducing the fees in Vernacular Schools and in the Middle Schools Government decided to go further and they resolved to reduce the fees in all grades of the schools. In the V, VI and VII Classes in the Vernacular Schools they have reduced the fees from Chs. 18 to Chs. 14 per mensem. In the Preparatory Class in the English Schools the fee was reduced from Rs. 18 per year to Rs. 12. In the I, II and III Forms they reduced the fee from Rs. 24 to Rs. 18 per year. In the High School Classes *i. e.*, in the IV, V and VI Forms they reduced the fee from Rs. 42 to Rs. 36 per year. These reduced rates came into force on the 1st of Kanni 1110. Well, there were rather serious repercussions. The managers of Private Schools were alarmed and greatly

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[Mr. Chandrasekharan.]

agitated. A very large number of memorials was received by the Director and by the Dewan. The Managers, both individually and collectively made representations to Government. The most important managements of private schools *i. e.*, Catholics, Nairs, Jacobites, Marthomas, C. M. S., and L. M. S.—waited on deputation before the Dewan and they made out a very strong case for compensation. They complained, for instance, that the reduction of school fees came suddenly on the managements without previous intimation. If they had been given sufficiently long notice about the proposed reduction they might have reduced their commitments and curtailed their educational activities. But as it was, it took them by surprise. Then again, it was introduced in the middle of the year. Now the more important managements which run a large number of schools do not live from hand to mouth. They also like Governments prepare their budgets for the coming year and they estimate their income and expenditure. But if their income is suddenly reduced in the middle of the year they are placed in a very difficult position. So management after management said in their representations that they have no alternative but to reduce the salaries of their teachers. The salaries of the teachers of the private schools are already very low and the Department has been taking a very firm hand against the reduction of the salaries of the teachers and against the irregular and delayed payments made to them. My predecessor in office who was asked to report on these memorials and representations went into the question very carefully. He advised the Government to approach the whole question with caution. Now it has been estimated that the total loss of income of private schools as a result of this reduction during the last school year was about Rs. 1, 14,000. The loss for a full year would be about Rs. 2,20,000. But then, you see I have come to the House with a motion for a grant of Rs. 38,644 only. Mr. Statham suggested that we should distinguish and discriminate. We must separate the sheep from the goats. There are schools which make profit and there are schools which work under genuine deficit. These two different categories of schools should be treated differently. He proposed that all those schools which are working at a genuine deficit should be given assistance immediately.

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*) May I know from the member whether the schools which receive grants from Government are working at a defecit?

MR. C. V. CHANDRASEKHARAN (*Officiating Director of Public Instruction*): Well, Sir, the schools which receive maintenance grants from Government work under a genuine deficit. Their accounts have been inspected by the Divisional Inspectors and it is on the basis of the deficit, that grants are awarded. One third of the deficit, is given as grant. We used to give 50 per cent of the deficit as grants. But on account of financial stringency we are now giving only 33 1/3 per cent of the deficit as grant. The account of every school which applies for grant are inspected and scrutinised and their acquittance rolls examined and then only is grant awarded if it is found that

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the school is working under a deficit. It is only about one-third of the private schools which are seen to be working under a genuine deficit. It is for those schools that it is now proposed to give full compensation for the loss on account of the reduction of fees on condition that they do not reduce the salaries of their teachers. If they have already reduced the salaries of teachers they should restore that cut with full retrospective effect. Then only will they be eligible for compensation. The House will realise that this is only fair and just treatment. We do not want the teachers to suffer. 75 per cent of our boys and girls are in private schools and 80 per cent of our English Schools are private schools. The teaching profession in private schools would have to bear a disproportionate and perhaps crushing burden if we do not give them compensation. Already I have received from the management of a certain private school a notice to the effect that they have decided to reduce the salaries of the teachers by 10 per cent.

RAO SAHIB S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Nominated*): May I know whether this amount of Rs. 38,644 is intended to cover the loss sustained by schools in 1110?

MR. C. V. CHANDRASEKHARAN (*Officiating Director of Public Instruction*): It covers the loss sustained during the school year 1934 to 1935 *i. e.*, 4 months. It is made up of as follows :—

For English Middle Schools for boys and girls it is about Rs. 29,000. For Vernacular Aided Middle Schools for boys and girls it is about Rs. 9,000 and odd. If this house is pleased to vote this grant I can undertake to see that the amount is fairly and equitably distributed among the schools. The teacher whose salary has already been cut down would get it restored.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha I*): May I know from the member whether the motion carried in the House with regard to the reduction of school fees comprises private institutions within the scope thereof?

MR. C. V. CHANDRASEKHARAN (*Officiating Director of Public Instruction*): Yes, the Government order was that this reduction should come into force from the 1st Kanni in all recognised schools and my impression is that the question of the private schools was raised in the course of the budget discussion.

Well, Sir, as regards the unaided schools which do not apply for grants. There are schools which just manage to balance their income and expenditure. There are other schools which run at a profit. Government have decided in their case that no immediate relief would be extended to them. The schools which need help from Government should appoint special auditors to audit their accounts. The Department has published a list of registered auditors who alone can be appointed by the schools. These schools should send a copy of the certified accounts to the Department and if the Department is convinced that the school has suffered genuine loss that loss would be reimbursed by Government.

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MR. K. R. ELENKATH (*Kalkulam I*): May I know from the member the approximate amount saved by the Government by the withdrawal of aid to schools during the last 10 years?

MR. C. V. CHANDRASEKHARAN (*Officiating Director of Public Instruction*) The Government have not withdrawn the aid. If the member is referring to the earlier part of my speech he will see that I have said that formerly Government used to pay 50 per cent. of the loss as grants and now they are paying only 33⅓ per cent. owing to economic depression.

MR. K. R. ELENKATH (*Kalkulam I*): My question is how much have the Government been able to save by way of this reduction in grants.

MR. C. V. CHANDRASEKHARAN (*Officiating Director of Public Instruction*): I do not understand the point of view of the member, Sir.

PRESIDENT: The question is not relevant.

RAO SAHIB S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Nominated*): In view of the explanation given by the member that this order by the Government came into force in the middle of the year and the management had no time to make necessary adjustment during the next school year, may I know from the member whether Government will consider about the loss incurred during the latter half of the current year?

MR. C. V. CHANDRASEKHARAN (*Officiating Director of Public Instruction*): That is pending the decision of Government.

Well, I was saying that with regard to the unaided schools their loss would come to above Rs. 71,000. We cannot make any definite estimate. But each case will be considered and dealt with on its merits. I commend this Demand for the acceptance of the House.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum—Rural*): May I know from the member whether any additional steps are being taken by the department to see that the accounts kept by the managements are genuine and correct?

MR. C. V. CHANDRASEKHARAN (*Officiating Director of Public Instruction*): They are all being compelled to appoint registered auditors. Government have insisted that all middle schools should have their accounts audited by an approved auditor and that the copy of his report should be sent to the Department.

MR. N. E. VARUGHESE (*Tiruvalla I*): Will the member kindly enlighten the House how he could get at the exact amount required by each school which requires aid?

MR. C. V. CHANDRASEKHARAN (*Officiating Director of Public Instruction*): That is easily done. There are four Divisions and four Divisional Inspectors. These Inspectors know the strength of each school. We get reports from these Divisional Inspectors as to the approximate loss sustained by each school. It is found to be about Rs. 29,000. For Vernacular Schools the loss will come to about Rs. 9,000.

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MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum—Urban*) : May I know from the member whether he is aware of instances in which teachers of aided schools have resigned their appointments on account of the reduction of their salaries?

MR. C. V. CHANDRASEKHARAN (*Officiating Director of Public Instruction*) : The department has been dealing with a number of such cases and we are taking a firm stand and insisting upon justice being done to teachers.

MR. K. PADMANABHAN (*Chirayinkil I*) : May I know whether, in the case of unaided schools which do not claim or get any grant from Government, it is necessary to get their accounts audited by auditors certified by Government?

MR. C. V. CHANDRASEKHARAN (*Officiating Director of Public Instruction*) : Yes, it is necessary; that was an independent recommendation of the Education Reforms Committee.

MR. PACODE A. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Vilavankod*) : May I know whether it was not on account of the economic depression and consequent financial stringency that the people pressed for reduction of school fees and the Government ordered such reduction?

PRESIDENT : That is an admitted fact; you do not want a member to say that.

MR. PACODE A. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Vilavankod*) : May I know whether on account of the same reason, namely, economic depression and consequent financial stringency, the salaries of the aided school teachers also cannot stand a reduction?

MR. C. V. CHANDRASEKHARAN (*Officiating Director of Public Instruction*) : But, at earlier stages, of the depression even before fees were reduced, the managements of aided schools had reduced the salaries of the aided school teachers. Certainly, they cannot stand any further reduction.

MR. K. R. ELENKATH (*Kalkulam I*) : May I know whether the acquittance rolls and accounts maintained by these aided schools are correct and reliable and are not false?

MR. C. V. CHANDRASEKHARAN (*Officiating Director of Public Instruction*) : If there is any room for suspicion, the Divisional Inspector makes a report, and investigation is made and the management suffers according to the gravity of the offence, if any.

MR. K. R. ELENKATH (*Kalkulam I*) : May I know whether the auditors will be able to find out whether the accounts are true or false?

MR. C. V. CHANDRASEKHARAN (*Officiating Director of Public Instruction*) : I hope so. We have just introduced the system.

The Demand was put to vote and carried.

The grant was made.

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